Vol. IV. Numb. 41.

THE OBSERVATOR.

An Account of the Rehearsal of Observator. *The* Observators *Reasons for his not Answering that Paper. More Remarks on the Libel, call'd,* The History of Faction, *alias* Moderation.

From **Saturday** August the 18th, to **Wednesday** August the 22d, 1705.

Country-m. MAster, I have been considering the Ponit, and 'tis my Country Opinion, That you ought to Write two or three Papers more a Week, for 'tis impossible to Detect all the *Lies* and *Forgeries* of *High-Church* in one single Paper. There are some that Write many Papers to no Purpose, to no National Advantage, without *Sense* or *Reason*; the *Press* is quite Clogg'd.

Obs. For that very reason do I Write no more; I keep to my Text, and think what I do is sufficient, at this Juncture, for one in my Circumstances.

Country-m. But, Master, here's the *Rehearsal of Observator* Writes against the *Power* of the People; and the Arguments he has made use of, the *High-Flyers* say, *are Unanswerable*: He falls foul on you, and on Mr. *Review* about his *Magazine of Power*; and many, nay, some of the *Whigs* say, *That neither of you are able to answer him.*

Obs. I have Read those Papers, and I think the Author has, at last, found out the best methods to blacken our *Constitution*, and to impose on the *Weak Populace:* And, indeed, I had taken Notice of those Papers long before this time, but was willing to give place to my Betters. Mr. *Review*, you know, a while ago, said, *The Author of the* Rehearsal *was much Superiour in* Learning *and* Language *to the* Observator. Now, Mr. *Review* being much Superiour in *Learning* and *Language* to us *both*, and Understanding the *Law-Lattin* and *Law-French* much better than my self, as also having taken my Title to himself, I have waited with Impatience for the Answer of that Great Man in his own Vindication.

As for Mr. *Lesly*, the Author of the *Rehearsal*, I'll bate him all the *Lies* and *Forgeries* he has been Guilty of, provided he will act like a *Schollar* and a fair *Disputant*. His *Province* is to *Rehearse* the *Observator*; let him do it fairly then; let him *Rehearse* my Arguments and *Confute* 'em, and if he can do this, I'll assure him I'll turn *High-Flyer* and a *Jure-Divino* Man; for hard *Arguments*, not soft *Words* can Convince the *Mind.*

And one thing I would desire of him (if he would make good what he has asserted, as to his Baffling me, concerning the *Power of the People*) to give a Rational Answer to one single Sheet of Paper, Written by me, call'd *A Vindication of the* Observator; which is to be had at Mr. *How*'s or at Mr. *Bragg*'s.

And, whereas I have had several Letters sent me, from Gentlemen of worth, desiring my Reflections on those Papers, and several Members of Parliament having given into my own hands, and sent me the very Papers for that Intent and Purpose, the only Answer I can give these Gentlemen is, That they must consider me under *Prosecution* at this time, for asserting the *Power* and *Free-Birth Rights* of the People, and that I know, by Experience, a *Jury of Citizens* may be found, that will find me Guilty of *Faction* and *Sedition*, for Vindicating their own *Free-Birth-Rights* and *Properties.*

Let 'em also consider, That this Paper, the *Rehearsal*, tho' in it is contain'd the highest *Treason*, or else some of the wisest Men in *England* are mistaken, with my self, is under no *Prosecution*, as I ever yet heard of.

I hope this, with the Precedence I give to the *Review*, who ought, in *Justice* to his Country as well as in his own *Vindication*, to Confute his Arguments, will satisfie the Gentlemen that have Solicited me in this Affair.

However, if it must be still my Fortune to bear the Drudgery of Defending the *English Liberties*, as such a Service cannot Ruin me much more than it has done already, so my Hand and Pen shall be free as ever in that Service; if nobody will undertake that Work, I must.

But at present they must spare me some time in the Vindication of my self, and several great Personages *Scandaliz'd*, *Abused* and *Villifi'd* by Inhumane *Forgeries*, in the Libel call'd *The History of* Faction, *alias* Moderation, *&c.*

Country-m. Aye, Master, to your Text; a few more *High-Church Forgeries.*

Obs. We ended last time with his *Forgery* of a *Plot* against Sir *George Rook*; let's see what he says farther to that Point. *Page* 98. *Neither the* Observator *nor his* Country-man, *they, nor their Party were able to get the D. of* Sch——, *nor the E—— of* G—— *into the Earl of* Marlboroughs *Post, nor the E— of* Q. *into Sir* George Rooks, *&c.*

Country-m. What, me again in the *Plot*, an *Unsactify'd Wretch!* Master, how like a Blockhead does this Fellow Talk? What can I do to get any body into an Office?

Obs. Or can it be imagin'd that I could keep Persons *out*, or get Persons *into* such Great Offices, when I never had Interest enough, in this Government, to get my self into a Place of 50 *l.* a Year.

But 'tis the Party, Honest *Country man*, that sets us on work, I with my *Pen*, and you with your *Towel*, that could not do these things.

Country m. I know nothing of a Party, but a Party of *Knaves* and *Nonjurors*; for the *Whigs*, I am sure I know none of 'em but you, and I think you know very few o'em; for you are here a Month together without seeing any Body you know besides my Family.

Obs. I know the Party he means, but I don't know the Persons; yet I am sure 'tis false that ever they endeavour'd to set a side the Duke of *Marlborough* from being General of the Army, by Preferring the Duke of *Scombergh* or the Earl of *Gallway* before him.

The Party he mentions were well satisfy'd with Her Majesties Choice of a General. For the Earl of *Marlborough*'s Abilities and Inclination to the

Service

Service of his Country were acknowledg'd by 'em. And King *William*, before his Death, having Cultivated for him a good Underſtanding with the *States* and other *Powers*, and having led him into the Secret of *Alliances* and *War*, the whole Nation took this as a Recommendation of King *Williams* for the Earl to be his Succeſſor in the *War*; and you may remember that I ſpoke to this purpoſe, upon his Excellencies being Declared *Generalliſſimo*.

So that 'tis apparent the Duke of *Marlborough* had the good Opinion and Wiſhes of the *Whigs*, from the very Infancy of his *Greatneſs*, and that they were very ready in the *Houſe of Commons*, not only to own his great Services, but to make a Perpetual acknowledgment of *them*, by a Grateful Settlement on Himſelf and Poſterity.

The Duke of *Schomberg* has had the Honour to ſerve Her Majeſty as General Abroad, and the Earl of *Gallway* is now actually employ'd in that Quality; by which Her Majeſties Act, the *High-Church* may be aſſur'd, that the *Whigs* are Friends to ſuch Men as Her Majeſty believes to be in Her Intereſt.

If the Party he mentions did endeavour to get the Earl of *Orford* into Sir *George Rook*'s Poſt, then they endeavour'd to make Sir *George* Earl of *Orford*, and the Earl of *Orford* Sir *George*, for Sir *George* was not *Vice-Admiral* of *England* till the Queen Declar'd him ſo in this Reign: But if they wiſh'd the Queens Declaring of the Earl of *Orford Vice-Admiral* of *England*, they were in the Right on't.

For the Earl of *Orford* having done the *Engliſh* Nation the trueſt Service, in giving the *French* ſuch a deadly blow in its *Naval-Force*, the like before was never known, and which they are never likely to Recover; and he having, at all times, behaved himſelf with ſuch exemplary *Courage* and *Conduct*, as well as *Fidelity*, in the Service of his Country, could you blame the *Whigs* for having an Eye to one whoſe Abilities and Services gave him the beſt Recommendation to ſo high a Poſt?

For my part I don't Envy any Perſon the Triumphs of *Victory*; nor would I leſſen real *Merrit*; but I cannot hold Pace with *High-Church Applauſes*, that extend the *Fortuitous* Enterprizes of *War*, as Attributes of *Conduct* and *Perſonal Bravery*, when 'tis well known that the Lucky *Dolts* often have the happy Minute Pointed to them by *Fate*, when the Unlucky *Wiſeman* has it Veil'd from his View.

The Extravagance of Men in crying up the Actions of their own Party, and in crying down thoſe of the contrary, was never more of Uſe than at preſent in *England*, tho' there be nothing of real *Merrit*, yet the Perſon, if his be the prevaling Party, muſt be Loaded with *Laurals*, and blown like a Bubble into the Air by the Breath of Popular Applauſe.

What can be more invidious on the Memory of King *William*, and a more Rediculous *Lie* and *Forgery* in favour of Sir *George Rook*, than what this Author mentions, *Page* 98, *That Sir* George *ſet Sail for* Cadiz, *to put one of King* Williams *Schemes in Practice, and return home Succeſsful for accompliſhing one of his own?*

'Tis true, *Page* 146. He foiſts in a pretended Speech, made by the Speaker of the *Houſe of Commons*, when he gave Sir *George* the Thanks of the *Houſe*, which carries ſuch an Air of *Forgery* in it, and the Subſtance of it ſo much like a *Romance*, that we muſt give it a Place among the *High-Church Legends*; but be it how it will, that is but one Mans Opinion.

How the Taking and Deſtroying the *Galleons* at *Vigo* was the Accompliſhment of one of Sir *George Rooks* Projects, is more a matter of *Faith* than of *Demonſtration*. He forc'd 'em to come from *New Spain* at that Seaſon of the Year; he Order'd them into his *Puppy-Snatch* at *Vigo*; but when Capt. *Le Hardy* was ſent a Cruizing, did he Inſtruct him to look into *Vigo* on that Account?

Well, we'll be as favourable as poſſibly we can; ſuppoſe then 'twas Sir *George*'s Project to Take, Deſtroy, and Burn them, after he heard they were in *Vigo* Harbour. Do'ye call this a *Project*? Is *Obedience* to *Command*, to *Inſtructions* and *Orders*, a *Project*? Good God, into what *Abſurdities* are Men hurry'd by the Bigotry of Parties? If Sir *George* had not Sail'd for *Vigo*, I am ſure we needed no *Project* to bring him to *Juſtice*, we have plain *Law* on that Account.

But how came the Duke of *Ormond* to be over-look'd in this mighty Enterprize? 'Tis plain that the Accompliſhment of this *Project*, whoſe ever it was, was owing to the *Land-Forces*, if we may believe the Impartial Accounts of ſuch as were in the Action, which we are rather oblig'd to Credit, than the Relations of *Scribblers* at Home.

If Sir *George* be a Perſon *tam Marte quam Mercurio*, an Inſtance of the former he gives us, *Page* 98; and of the latter in his *Incomparable* and *Pithy Speech*, return'd in Anſwer to the Speaker, *Page* 148, 149. 'Tis nothing to me, I reſerve my Opinion to my ſelf; others may Read the Book, and perhaps make better Remarks on it than I can do. Come, Honeſt *Countryman*, we'll proceed no farther at preſent, but, with one Bumper to the Earl of *Peterborough* and Sir *Cloudſley Shovell*, we'll go to Bed.

Country-m. Maſter, with all my Spirit.

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